

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 488

Commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley and Frances.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

Mr. EHLERS (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. GORDON, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. SHAW, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. KELLER, Mr. BOYD, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. GOSS, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. DEUTSCH, and Mr. DAVIS of Florida) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Science

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley and Frances.

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service consistently provides critical forecasts and warnings about severe weather to the Nation's citizens;

Whereas 2 hurricanes, Charley and Frances, recently hit the State of Florida back-to-back, an event which has not occurred since 1964;

Whereas the employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center and the employees of key Southern Region Weather Forecast Offices worked tirelessly and under great pressure to provide the most up to date information to the public, the media, and emergency management officials during Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas the employees of the National Hurricane Center conducted 496 live television interviews as well as 567 telephone briefings to the media and others during Hurricane Frances;

Whereas the forecasts and information from the National Hurricane Center provided notice for the safe evacuation of more than 4,000,000 residents in the line of Hurricanes Charley and Frances and warnings to 14,600,000 Floridians;

Whereas the Hurricane Liaison Team, a joint National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency partnership, provided support to the 25 different media outlets operating out of the National Hurricane Center, working 14-hour shifts over a total of 11 days during the 2 hurricanes;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hydrometeorological Prediction Center provided rainfall forecasts and hurricane track guidance to the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Weather Service's National Data Buoy Center, in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, worked expediently after Hurricane Charley to fix

data buoys that proved critical for forecasts of Hurricane Frances;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service provided storm surge predictions and hydrographic information support to Federal partners before, during, and after Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service provided images of Hurricane Frances every 5 minutes over a 4-day period, an unprecedented number of images for hurricane tracking;

Whereas the Southern and Eastern Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, and Taunton provided up-to-the-minute local details for residents throughout Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas employees from other offices within the Southern Region provided additional support to key Weather Forecast Offices directly impacted by Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas more than 1,000 watches, warnings, advisories, and other statements were issued by key local Weather Forecast Offices during Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine and Aviation Operation's Hurricane Hunters logged 128 hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, logged 304 hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

Whereas the Southeast River Forecast Center provided critical river flooding forecast information to Federal, State, and private partners during Hurricanes Charley and Frances and during both accurately predicted the amount of excessive rainfall over Florida several days in advance; and

Whereas it is still the first half of hurricane season and all these employees are now engaged tracking the next tropical storm, Hurricane Ivan, which is fast approaching the United States coast: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) commends the employees of the National
 4 Weather Service, especially the National Oceanic
 5 and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction
 6 Center/National Hurricane Center,
 7 Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, and Na-
 8 tional Data Buoy Center; the 53rd Weather Recon-
 9 naissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air
 10 Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base,
 11 Biloxi, Mississippi; the National Oceanic and Atmos-
 12 pheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center at

1 MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida; the Hurri-
2 cane Liaison Team; the National Ocean Service; and
3 the National Environmental Satellite Data and In-
4 formation Service, for their extraordinary dedication
5 and hard work during Hurricanes Charley and
6 Frances;

7 (2) commends the Southern and Eastern Re-
8 gion Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami,
9 Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville,
10 Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mo-
11 bile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wil-
12 mington, Wakefield, and Taunton for their extraor-
13 dinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes
14 Charley and Frances;

15 (3) thanks the commercial and media mete-
16 orologists for their contributions in disseminating
17 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
18 tion forecasts and warnings to the public; and

19 (4) expresses its support for the ongoing hard
20 work and dedication of all who provide accurate and
21 timely hurricane forecasts.

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